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March 16, 1993

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To: Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

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From: Ralph A. Smith, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

MAR 22 1993

Subject: ET Docket No. 93-7

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I am sure you are aware of the problems that cable subscribers have with cable companies who require us to rent converter boxes and remote controls. Not only are such requirements a steady financial drain on us, but added to the steadily increasing costs of subscribing, such additional charges are unconscionable.

Even as Congress in 1992 directed the FCC to issue regulations "to promote the commercial availability, from cable operators and retail vendors that are not affiliated with cable systems, of converter boxes and of remote control devices compatible with converter boxes," we aver that it is in the public interest to get on with the Congressional mandate. It would also be well for the Commission to require cable companies to provide a compatible interface with consumers TVs and VCRs.

In order to implement the 1992 Cable Act, all cable systems should be required to adopt national renewable compatibility standards so that cable subscribers could connect their own equipment to their local cable systems and have all equipment features fully functional. Also, necessary converter boxes and controls should be available competitively in the marketplace.

Thank you for any consideration you can give to this matter.

cc: Ron Wyden
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Furse
Member of Congress



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